

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A record ~~Record~~ carrier comprising at least one area for storing disc management information, said record carrier further comprising an area, associated with a first one of said at least one area, comprising signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use, each ~~one~~ of said signals being related to a corresponding one of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information.
2. (Currently amended) The record ~~Record~~ carrier according to claim 1, wherein the area comprising signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use is located inside ~~[[a]]~~ said first one of said at least one area for storing disc management information.
3. (Currently amended) The record ~~Record~~ carrier according to claim 1, wherein the area comprising signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use is located adjacent to ~~[[a]]~~ said first one of said at least one area for storing disc management information.
4. (Currently amended) The record ~~Record~~ carrier according to claim 1 wherein the signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use are clusters on ~~[[a]]~~ said record carrier, said clusters comprising marks for indicating a first status of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information and comprising no marks for indicating a second status of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information.
5. (Currently amended) The record ~~Record~~ carrier according to claim 4, wherein the first status indicates that ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding area of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing

disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use, and the second status indicates that the corresponding area of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is not in use.

6. (Currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for recording information on a record carrier, said record carrier comprising at least one area for storing disc management information and~~[[,]]~~ ~~said record carrier further comprising~~ an area comprising signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use, each ~~one~~ of said signals being related to a corresponding one of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing the area comprising signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one area ~~areas~~ for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use,
- referencing each of said signals;
- ~~of~~ determining from said signals the last area for storing disc management information which is in use, and
- ~~of~~ retrieving the disc management information contained within said determined last area for storing disc management information.

7. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, wherein the step of accessing the area comprising signals indicating ~~whether or not the~~ which of said at least one ~~the~~ areas for storing disc management information ~~[[are]]~~ is in use consists of referencing ~~consist of jumping to~~ a predefined location on the record carrier.

8. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, wherein the step of retrieving the disc management information comprises retrieving pointer information from a predefined location in the determined last area for storing disc management information in use, and subsequently retrieving the disc management information by using said pointer information.

9. (cancel)

10. (New) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use explicitly identifies said first one of said at least one area.

11. (New) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use implicitly identifies said first one of said at least one area.

12. (New) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said first one of said at least one area is contained at a known region of said record carrier.

13. (New) The record carrier according to claim 1, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use is contained at a known region of said record carrier.

14. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use explicitly identifies said first one of said at least one area.

15. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use implicitly identifies said first one of said at least one area.

16. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said first one of said at least one area is contained at a known region of said record carrier.

17. (New) A record carrier comprising at least one layer, each of said at least one layer comprising:

at least one area of a known dimension for storing disc management information, wherein a first one of said at least one area has associated therewith an area comprising signals corresponding to selected ones of said at least one area for storing disc management information, said signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use.

18. (New) The record carrier according to claim 17, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use explicitly identifies said first one of said at least one area.

19. (New) The record carrier according to claim 17, wherein said area comprising signals indicating which of said at least one area for storing disc management information is in use implicitly identifies said first one of said at least one area.